

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /099 W

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R 211145Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBSSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AG, MO, SS

SUBJECT: KING'S AUGUST 20 SPEECH

1. SUMMARY

IN A RELATIVELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE ADDRESS TO THE NATION, KING TERMED COLOMBO A "MOROCCAN VICTORY" ON THE SAHARAN QUESTION AND REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO PROCEED "SHORTLY" WITH ELECTIONS. ALGERIA WAS THE SUBJECT OF ONLY TWO INDIRECT BUT SCORNFUL REFERENCES. END SUMMARY

2. IN A 20 MINUTE SPEECH ON AUGUST 20, THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXILE OF HIS FATHER BY THE FRENCH, KING HASSAN TOUCHED ON THE JUST CONCLUDED COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND ELECTIONS, AND HE MADE TWO INDIRECT BUT CRITICAL REFERENCES TO ALGERIA. MUCH OF HIS SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OCCASION AND A TRIBUTE TO SOME OF THE HEROES OF THE RESISTANCE STRUGGLE. AS IN THE PAST THE THEME WAS ON THE MOROCCAN "REVOLUTION" AND HE

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MADE NO REFERENCE IN ANY WAY TO THE FRENCH. THE KING REVEALED THAT IT WAS ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR THAT HE HAD PRIVATELY DECIDED

TO UNDERTAKE THE GREEN MARCH. HE RECALLED THAT IT WAS ALSO EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO THAT HE HAD PROMISED THE NATION THAT MOROCCO WOULD BE IN EL AYOUAN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. SUBSTANTIVE HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

3. COLOMBO CONFERENCE. THE KING CROWED OVER MOROCCO'S "SUCCESS" AT COLOMBO, PRAISING HIS DELEGATION'S "VICTORY AND GOOD RESULTS".

4. ELECTIONS. THE KING REAFFIRMED THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD SOON SET OUT ON AN ELECTORAL AND DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT, A "TEST" FOR THE PEOPLE WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO WORK AT IN ORDER TO PASS. SHIFTING METAPHORS, HE LIKENED THE EXPERIENCE TO MAINTAINING AN AUTOMOBILE. A CAR HAS TO BE FINELY TUNED AND ADJUSTED TO KEEP IT RUNNING, AND IT SHOULD NOT PROCEED TOO FAST OR TOO SLOW. THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WOULD TAKE "MANY YEARS" TO ESTABLISH, "NOT JUST 1 OR 2". DEMOCRACY HAD BECOME "A PROGRAM OF CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN RULER AND RULED" IN WHICH NEITHER WAS TOTAL MASTER. HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO THINK DEEPLY DURING THE UPCOMING MONTH OF RAMADAN ABOUT WHAT KIND OF "SYSTEM" THEY WISHED TO LIVE UNDER, STATING THAT THE ONLY GIVEN WAS A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WITHIN AN ISLAMIC FRAMEWORK. HASSAN PROMISED HE WOULD ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS IN MORE DETAIL ON ANOTHER OCCASION.

5. ALGERIA. THE KING DID NOT MENTION ALGERIA BY NAME BUT MADE CLEAR AND SCORNFUL REFERENCES TO THAT COUNTRY IN TWO INSTANCES. EARLY ON IN THE SPEECH HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF HOW GOD HAD BLESSED MOROCCO WITH MANY RICHES, WHICH OCCASIONALLY MADE IT THE "TARGET OF GREEDY PEOPLE". LATER ON, IN DISCUSSING THE COLOMBO RESULTS, HE SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE BITTER FIGHTING THERE HAD SHOWN THE WORLD THE "TRUE INTENTIONS" OF THE COUNTRY WHICH GOD HAD WILLED TO BE OUR NEIGHBORS".

6. COMMENT.
THE LACK OF SUBSTANCE IN THIS SPEECH IS PARTIALLY EXPLAINABLE BY THE FACT THAT THE COLOMBO AFFAIR HAS ONLY JUST ENDED AND THE GOM WILL WANT TO SORT OUT WHERE IT GOES NEXT. THE REAFFIRMATION OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS, COMING ON THE HEELS OF A SERIES OF POLITICAL TRIALS AND THE REOPENING OF ELECTORAL LISTS, SUGGESTS THAT THE
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LIKELIHOOD OF ELECTIONS IS GREATER AT THIS MOMENT THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
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